Bid to link Kashmir with Kuwait

396. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 27th January, 1991 under the caption 'Bid to link Kashmir with Kuwait' stating that Kashmiri separatists are trying to equate Iraqi occupation of Kuwait with what they call Indian occupation of Kashmir through the Western Media; and

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to counter such propaganda by Kashmiri militants in the Western countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the news items which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' of 27th January, 1991, which reported that in a meeting held by the National Muslim Conference in Britain several resolutions were adopted, including one on Kashmir.

(c) Concerned Governments have been apprised of India's stand that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that all differences between India and Pakistan are to be resolved bilaterally and peacefully within the framework of the Simla Agreement. There is widespread appreciation of Government position.

"Impact of oil slick on the monsoon trend and the ecological balance of the country"

397. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey regarding the impact of the biggest ever oil slick in the Gulf on the monsoon trend and on the ecological balance of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what preventive action has been taken by Government to protect the ecological balance due to oil slick in the Gulf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Government is monitoring the movement of oil slick in the Gulf and the marine and atmospheric environment. Analysis of data collected so far has not revealed any cause for immediate concern with regard to monsoon or the ecological balance of the country. The Government is continuing its monitoring to detect any effect on our environment.

"Setting up a panel for planting trees in Delhi"

398. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a panel has been set up for planting trees in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take for the aftercare of planted trees which generally die after their plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Delhi Adiminstration has set up a Task Force under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary with representatives from all development departments and also from Ministry of Environment and Forests as members to oversee and monitor the implementation of plantation programme under "Green Delhi Campaign".

(c) After-care of the planted seedlings is a regular feature of the plantation programme. This includes casuality replacements also. For the protection of seedlings planted, the implementing agencies adopt measures like fencing, provision of tree guards, patrolling of areas and also seek cooperation of local residents and voluntary agencies.